

**MEMO**

TO: Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council  
DATE: April 20, 2012  
RE: Recommendation for Grant Agreement for Home Visitation strategy

Chair Jill McCormick and Members of the Regional Council,

I am recommending the Grant Agreement with the Cocopah Indian Tribe – Early Steps Program, for your consideration. This award recommendation is in response to the Home Visitation strategy from our SFY13 Regional Funding Plan, and the decision to fund this strategy through a Tribal Grant Agreement.

The total amount of funding to be awarded under this Grant Agreement for SFY13 is \$69,182. The initial funding period is July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 with potential renewal of the grant award for two consecutive periods, based on performance and continuation of the strategy by the Regional Council.

**Background**

The Regional Council, through this strategy, will provide voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, focusing on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition. Connect families to resources to support their child's health and early learning.

This strategy will give parents stronger, more supportive relationships with their children through in-home services on a variety of topics, including parenting skills, early childhood development, literacy and health, and also by connecting parents and caregivers with community resources to help them better support their child's health and early learning. The primary goal of home visiting services is to promote effective parenting and bring services to families that may be geographically or socially isolated. When delivered well, home visiting services convey great respect for families because they indicate that the service system is coming to the family rather than the other way around.

A culturally competent in-home visitor, who is trained in child development and physically located in the region, makes regular, scheduled visits to homes with expectant families and families with infants, or with young children, to provide information and resources and assist parents in their parenting skills. Parents will be guided through a developmental screening tool (Ages & Stages Questionnaire) that is conducted someplace where the child and parents feel comfortable; upon receiving the results of the screening, support and education is provided to parents which includes referrals and ways to advocate for their child.

**Summary of Anticipated Outcomes and Impacts**

The home visitation strategy implemented through the recommended grant agreement requires a partnership with Indian Health Services, the Cocopah Tribal departments, and services throughout the Yuma area as well so that referrals are made that increase families' access to appropriate community resources. The Cocopah Early Steps Program has proposed specific collaborations with the Kith and Kin training provider in the Yuma area, and with the Cocopah Social Services Parent Aide to conduct parent classes. The Home Visitation will be carried out as preventive, voluntary and non-mandated. This strategy will continuously reach 10 families, who are expecting or have infants and toddlers.

Respectfully,



Ashley Pascual, Director, Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council